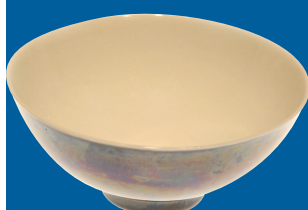


From blogs to
business

Page 7



Through the eyes of villagers

A new fringe show in Beijing is showing how rural and urban factors interact by putting the cameras in the hands of villagers and photographers to record a vanishing way of life.

Read more on Page 6



2013 the
year of online
education

Page 3

Nation braces
as bird flu
count grows

Page 4



Page 5

Baiting
top talents

China is making an attractive offer to any foreign experts who can help the country continue its growth.

Croisements festival headlines new media in 8th year

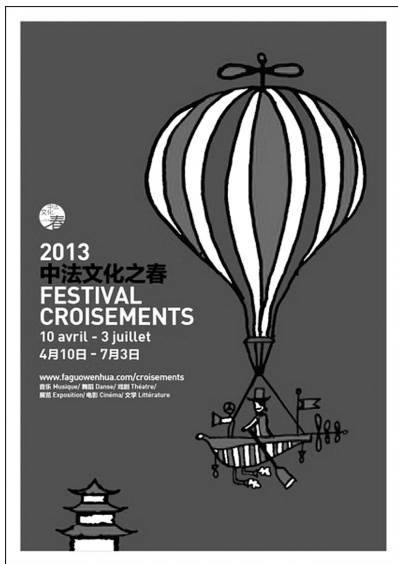
By Liu Xiaochen

After a missed appearance last year, new media is once again at the center of Croisements Festival 2013.

This year's display will make use of new media technology, including an interactive lighting exhibition by AADN Art Troupe that uses recorded voice samples from musicians and the general populace.

French director Jean Jacques Annaud and Chinese musician Chen Qigang introduced the festival at the French embassy on Wednesday with Ambassador Sylvie Bermann.

As the largest foreign art festival in China, Croisements comes to new participating cities each year. Among its new stops for 2013 are Lijiang, Yunnan



Croisements Festival 2013 kicks off with an introduction at the French embassy.

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

Province and the cities of Wuzhen and Shaoxing, Zhejiang Province.

Five of the destination cities will have music and film festivals, with French films and modern music as the focus.

"As one of Europe's most important cultural centers, we see introducing France to China as very important,"

Annaud said. "The French government has enacted many policies to help support the country's artistic innovation."

"French people focus on spiritual nourishment – especially on their music," Chen said. "Even during the recent economic struggles, the French government still attaches importance

to cultural promotion and its artists."

Among its more practical promotions are international festivals and 120 compositions the French Ministry of Culture commissions from the country's musicians each year.

"These achievements are difficult for other European countries to match," Chen said.

Young workers head to Japan for teaching exchange

By Liu Xiaochen

This year, 56 people from China headed to Japan to work as coordinators for international relations (CIRs), assistant language teachers (ALTs) and sports exchange advisors (SEAs).

Participants will be deployed across the country, from Japan's biggest cities to its rural fishing village.

At the send-off, Japanese Ambassador Kitera Masato said the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) has become the largest international exchange program in the world.

Founded in 1987, JET opened to China in 1992. Since then it has been supported by the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Science and Technology and Council of Authorities for International Relations.

"As a coastal place, Shandong Province and Japan have had many exchange opportunities. Shandong

and Yamaguchi-ken have been friendly for many years," said Ji Xingmin, a CIR from the Foreign Affairs Office of Taian, Shandong Province.

"I want to do something to further our relationship because most Japanese people never come to China. There are a lot of misunderstandings I might have a chance to mend."

For Xu Yeqing, a CIR working in Fukui Prefecture, the job is a chance to put his Japanese language skills to use.

"Mutual trust between the people from Japan and China is very low today. I hope we can gradually improve this situation through the annual program," said Xu, a Japanese translator for the Department of Health in Zhejiang Province.

JET begins its recruitment in China each November. After passing the written test and interview, selected applicants are notified the next March. Participants who accept the position gather in Beijing for a

short training program.

"The JET program promotes international exchange and foreign language education across Japan. Friendship and trust cultivated by the Chinese young people in JET is of great significance to Sino-Japanese relations," Kitera said at the Tuesday send-off.

"Friends who have participated in the JET program come back with a profound understanding of Japan," he said. "That's encouraging to me."

China had sent 1,300 people abroad through the JET program during the past 21 years. Most come from different fields and backgrounds, said deputy director Chen Xi from Department of Foreign Affairs Management in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

"Relevant government departments will provide them with the necessary support to assist them to in finishing their year's work," Chen said.



Japanese Ambassador Kitera Masato

Photo by Liu Xiaochen

Tough battles ahead for Web ed boom

By Bao Chengrong

After decades of rushing abroad to study at the top universities, eager Chinese students have another option: learning through the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platforms.

The online curriculum boom began last year, when several top schools began to offer their courses on Coursera, Udacity and edX.

Coursera, established in January 2012 by Stanford professors Andrew Ng and Daphne Koller, has grown to offer 336 interactive courses.

Its more than 3 million learners are instructed by 62 universities, including the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong and National Taiwan University.

Coursera could not estimate how many of its users are located on the Chinese mainland, as mainland users connect to it through a VPN. However, the site has been a popular topic on social platforms such as Weibo, Douban and Zhihu.

Li Rongpeng, a student at South University of Science and Technology of China, is one of its users.

On his blog, Li wrote a shining review of Coursera's Introduction to Interactive Programming in Python. While it was not his first course on the site, it was the most impressive.

"The teacher at Rice University specially recorded the video for online learners," Li said. Many of the other courses were merely films of University of Washington lectures, after which his homework was graded by a computer.

Li said the number of likes a course has on Facebook is a good measure of its quality.

He praised the virtual interactivity with his classmates, saying that everyone is encouraged to share his ideas through videos and encourage improvements.

Especially impressive was one course response by a 7-year-old boy on YouTube. "I was so surprised that the boy talked with confidence and projected a mature image," Li said.

A survey at Guokr.com found that 20 percent of the Chinese learners taking online courses are high school students.

Even those with a strong background in the subject matter can benefit from Coursera.

Xiao Lin, a fan of the open course Justice that is played on NetEase, said most Web courses merely let you watch offline classes. Few put forth the effort to these lectures optimize for online learners.

coursera | Explore Courses Categories Universities About | Login Sign Up

Take the world's best courses, online, for free.

What would you like to learn about?

Join 3,234,118 Courserians.
Learn from 336 courses, from 62 universities.
How it works »

STARTING SOON (35)

View courses starting soon »

- Introduction to Guitar**
Berklee College of Music, Apr 22nd
- Greek and Roman Mythology**
University of Pennsylvania, Apr 22nd
- Useful Genetics**
The University of British Columbia, May 1st
- The Hardware/Software Interface**
University of Washington, Apr 15th
- Social Epidemiology**
University of Minnesota, May 13
- Design: Creation of Artifacts in Society**
University of Pennsylvania, Apr 29th

Coursera's website

直播 过来人公开课 名校公开课 求职 英语 考研 计算机 认证考试 品牌专区

系列课程

留学申请全攻略

去哈佛大学、去耶鲁大学、去普林斯顿大学、去宾夕法尼亚大学、去哥伦比亚大学等顶尖名校...
你想在留学申请中获得更多筹码吗?
由前美国招生官员组成的豪华阵容

2013. 3. 27

GO! 上课啦!

直播公开课

即将直播

第3/6篇: 情绪管控
职业素养系列课程3: 情绪管控
杨文利
北大光华MBA、国资委特邀管理专家、北...

即将直播

CFA
CFA金融从业必修课(二十五)
王迺
于清华大学经管学院先后取得管理学学士...

直播公开课课程表

今天	18:30	杨文利	职业素养系列课程
明天	15:00	王迺	CFA金融从业必修课
明天	16:00	王春雨	提高英语口语和听
4.15	20:30	梁海燕	哈佛领导力实战讲
4.17	20:00	李俊	新托福备考攻略-写
4.17	20:30	Stephen	美国留学申请全攻

GLR.cn, China's Web ed hopeful

Coursera filled that blank.

Xiao said the slides on Coursera are redesigned to suit online study, and that the videos frequently stop to ask watchers questions.

"The coolest thing I saw was during my first week of Introduction to Genetics and Evolution, when the teacher had an online video discussion with Jerry Coyne, the author of *Why Evolution is*

True," Xie said. "I was a fan of the book and finally got a chance to see what the author looks like."

He was also glad to learn he could get a certificate signed by his online teachers after passing several tests.

Although the courses are for free, Coursera charges its learners \$30 to \$99 for a signature and \$60 to \$90 for tests conducted by a third

party. The certificates cannot currently be used to acquire school credit.

Coursera's additional income is from recruitment companies. Last December, it added a new service for its learners' career development. By analyzing the data for each learner's courses, conditions and interests, Coursera connects its learners with companies.

Companies that hire

employees they found through Coursera pay a fee, part of which is given to the university.

Udacity is another growing MOOC platform that evolved from a free class offered by Stanford University in 2011.

In 2012, Stanford researcher Sebastian Thrun partnered with David Stavens, a computer scientist, and Mike Sokolsky, a robotics researcher to create the new site.

The youngest online education platform is edX, co-founded by Harvard and MIT with a combined investment of \$60 million.

edX is more a research project than a business. The two universities are using it to study interactive teaching methods and how technology affects people's learning manners.

Sensing the great potential of these platforms, Zhang Youming decided to push ahead with a similar platform in China: GLR.cn.

"It is a historic moment for higher education. MOOC is not merely a supplementary to current higher education, but is opening a new era in online education," Zhang said.

Zhang opened GLR.cn last October with a collection of 200 courses from various universities. The site also offers career training and certificate examinations.

GLR.cn's goal is to provide live, interactive courses, Zhang said. The company plans to invest \$30 million in the next three years to promote it, and will provide Chinese courses and cultural courses from Tibet University for foreign learners in the near future.

But in spite of the boom, online education is still in its infancy.

Many hiring managers still value where a person learns more than what he learns, learners have a hard time concentrating on online videos and, most importantly, the world's ongoing economic slump has more people pursuing offline education, the *Financial Times* said.

Worse yet, 72 percent of the professors teaching online were opposed to even their best students earning college credit.

But Zhang still sees hope.

"MOOC provides students the chance to learn in a virtual class and skills that can benefit them at their next job," he said.

For the schools, the Web is a new battlefield on which to raise their image.

Long shadow of bird flu returns

By Zhao Hongyi

The shadow of avian influenza A (H7N9) hangs like a ghost over the country as people clamor for information or a vaccine. But that vaccine may be a long way off.

Until one becomes available, the Chinese government is cooperating with the World Health Organization to collect information about the new flu and develop a containment strategy before the infections spread.



Shanghai has started a cull of all poultry in its suburb.

CFP Photos

Flu centered on Shanghai

As of Thursday, there have been 38 people infected with the new strain of bird flu, nine of whom have already perished.

The infection is concentrated in the Shanghai-Jiangsu-Zhejiang area. Specifically, 18 are in Shanghai (5 dead), 12 in Jiangsu Province (2 dead), 6 in Zhejiang Province (2 dead) and 2 in Anhui Province (1 dead).

The disease has an incubation period of one week and rapidly worsens, usually causing death.

Victims have a fever and a dry cough with headache and muscle pain. Within several days, they will cough blood and show symptoms of emphysema, in addition to decreased kidney function and a fever of 39 C.

One person who perished from H7N9 in Shanghai was found with a mouthful of pink foam and saliva.

There are a number of rumors about the source of the disease, and many suspect it was brought to China by wild birds that migrated from South Korea.

However, it may be more likely that the virus evolved from an existing avian strain. The original site of the outbreak remains a mystery.

The latest confirmation is that wild birds from Siberia and Korea Peninsula brought the bird flu to the Shanghai area, combined with the local native bird and poultry feed, producing the new virus H7N9.

The flu spread quickly. In early March, a hospital in Changshu, Jiangsu Province reported it as "a virus we have been unable to identify or fight," said the Ministry of Health and Family Planning and the Chinese Center for Disease Prevention and Control (CCDC).

Since then, the number of the infected has swelled. At the end of March, there were 16 cases of human infection.

Many people suspected the disease is related to the more than 10,000 dead



Emergency training in Beijing



Jiangsu and Shanghai close down markets selling live chickens.



Chicken vendors in Anhui are forced to slash their prices.

pigs tossed into the Huangpu River by swine farmers in Zhejiang Province in early March.

At a joint press conference on April 8, Michael O'Leary, head of the World Health Organization (WHO) in China, rejected that notion, stating that the H7N9 flu virus was not found in any of the dead pigs, and their bodies did not show any symptoms of the disease.

Cooperating in the fight

China reported the appearance of H7N9 flu in humans to the WHO at the end of March. The organization has been keeping a close eye on the spread of the disease ever since.

Although the WTO declined to send a disease prevention team to China immediately, it did warn neighboring countries to keep an eye on the flu's development.

China has sent the flu virus sample to WHO, hoping it can help identify the flu and jointly develop the vaccine.

Japan has set up a checkpoint in the Narita International Airport to monitor passengers entering the country, and South Korea deployed an emergency response team to Jeju Island, a visa-free holiday destination popular with Chinese tourists.

Taiwan, which is located especially close to the main infected area, has been eager to cooperate with the Chinese mainland to develop a vaccine. However, experts estimate that any vaccine for H7N9 flu is six to eight months away.

Shanghai and the provinces of Jiangsu and Anhui have ordered the destruction of live chickens that are being traded at markets. In the provinces of Guangdong, Fujian and Zhejiang, the cull extends to palm civets and snakes.

Wuhan and Beijing began trial runs of their H7N9 flu containment measures this week. The health ministry has expelled the possibility of human

to human infection of the new type bird flu.

But many have complained that the government was too slow in its coverage of the spread and criticized it for not providing daily updates about the status of the disease.

Liu Yandong, vice prime minister, agreed, saying health authorities should be making daily disclosures.

The ministry began daily reporting of the flu's spread at the end of March.

Prevention methods

On April 8, Xinhua News Agency quoted sources as saying the flu's spread was limited to the Yangtze River basin.

The Ministry of Health said there has been no evidence of this bird flu being transmitted between humans. Most of the infected are chicken vendors, poultry farmers or people who work in similar close contact with birds, it said.

It advised the public to keep a distance from live birds, chickens and animals, and to keep a distance from their excrement. It also recommended frequent hand washing, eating at home and cooking poultry thoroughly before eating.

"We anticipate there will be a vaccine to combat this disease fairly soon," the ministry said.

The ministry has called on hospitals, clinics and doctors to report all cases of bird flu and to closely monitor the progress of infected patients. It is also asking for thorough background checks to discover the source of the infection.

The government is cautioning that traditional medicine is not effective at preventing the spread of bird flu.

In 2003, during the SARS outbreak, Chinese people stormed their pharmacies to buy powdered woad root, a traditional remedy for respiratory ailments.

"We can't rely on the powdered woad root as the effective way to prevent the disease this time," the ministry warns, "unless we find the right vaccine."

Foreign talents welcomed in China

By Zhao Hongyi

China is at a critical juncture in its economic development and industrial upgrade, and it realizes it needs help to take the next step.

Foreign experts are being welcomed to the country to introduce cutting-edge science and technology. *Beijing Today* takes a look.



A foreigner is interviewed.

Come one, come all

The State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs is scheduled to hold three recruiting fairs in Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing on April 14, April 20 and May 4.

The administration is inviting interested companies and institutes eager to find the right foreign candidates to register on its website at safea.gov.cn.

The Swissôtel Grand in Shanghai, China Hotel in Guangzhou and Swissôtel Beijing-Hong Kong Macao Center in Beijing will host the fairs.

The administration held similar fairs in these cities in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

The campaign to look for foreign talent began in 2004, after the country found it difficult to upgrade its industries and broaden its views on world economic development.

At present, more than 450,000 foreigners are living and working in China. Most of them are diplomats, businesspeople and independent contractors, according to the administration's statistics.

The number of foreign experts working and living in China has climbed from 468 in 1980 to 480,000 in 2008 and 529,000 in 2011.

Long history

During World War II, foreign experts such as the doctors Norman Bethune, George Hatem and Dwarkanath S. Kotnis made their mark on China.

At the same time, American writers such as Edgar Snow and Agnes Smedley, social researchers such as Alley Rewi from New Zealand, and translators like Sidney Shapiro were influential in the country's history.

In the 1950s and 1960s, most of the foreigners came from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe to help to construct the country.

In the 1980s and 1990s, foreign experts, particularly language teachers, were badly needed. A number



Doctors planning an eye operation in Shangdong Province.

CFP Photos



An American doctor in Harbin in northeast China.



Foreign experts on a oil platform on the East China Sea.



A Japanese expert teaches farmers how to grow fruits in Hebei Province.

of English, French and German language teaching programs were broadcast on TV. Catherine Flower from the UK and Mark Rowswell from Canada became huge stars.

Many of them were honored for their contributions. Each January, Chinese leaders meet them and praised their contributions. And it has become customary for foreigners to

make names for themselves at the annual Spring Festival galas.

Favorable conditions

The Thousands Foreign Experts Initiative was set up in 2011 to recruit and absorb foreign experts badly needed for the economic and social development of the country. China is scheduled to recruit more than 1,000 foreign talents in scientific fields such as material engineering, life science and information technology.

As of the end of last year, only 94 foreign experts had recruited. This does not include those recruited by provincial governments and independent companies and institutes.

"We'll recruit foreign talents according to the need for industrial upgrading and huge national projects," Zhang said, director of the administration.

Lots of help is needed at provincial levels, too.

Jiangsu Province will hold a foreign recruiting fair on June 20 and 24.

In 2009, Hunan Province started a "Hundred Foreign Talents" initiative.

They provided 600,000 yuan in subsidies, including permanent residence permits and equivalent salary in their home country.

The experts were mainly in the fields of biomedicine, chemical engineering, equipment manufacturing, material engineering, electronics and information industry.

Lanzhou, Gansu Province, promised to provide 1 million yuan to every foreign expert it recruited.

It also promised to offer tax breaks, particularly in environmentally friendly and cutting-edge fields.

New arrivals

Many foreigners hold critical positions in China.

Shadrov Cvitkovic, an aeronautic expert with the Russian Academy of Science and European Academy of Science, was recruited to work in the Mathematics and Systems Science of

Beijing University of Aeronautics & Astronautics (BUAA) for three years.

"BUAA provides an excellent platform to me to contribute my knowledge and expertise," Citkovic said in January in a meeting between foreign experts and former Chinese Prime Minister Wen Jiabao. "China is becoming more and more attractive to foreign experts."

Heike Strelen, a German scientist, was fascinated by the country's long history and rapid development after visiting China in 2011.

She brought her husband to China again, this time as the director of the China-Germany Center, a joint organization under the National Natural Science Foundation of China and Germany Science Foundation to explore fundamental science and technology research projects.

Strelen has approved 140 joint projects between the two countries so far.

Cyrille Breard was a noise reduction engineer at Boeing before he came to work at the Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China in 2008.

"The new C919 regional airplane will be quite calm," he told Chinese reporters.

Madjid Nadjd Samii is a famous neurosurgeon who helped China set up the International Neuroscience Institute in 2004.

After 20 years of cooperation with Xuanwu Hospital in Beijing, she educated a large group of Chinese neurosurgery doctors and received a "Friendship" award in 2007.

John Thornton was the global president of Goldman Sachs before coming to China as a guest professor at the Economic Management School at Tsinghua University.

"China offers the best conditions and treatments to senior foreign talents now," said Zhang Jianguo.

"We welcome foreign talents to tell us what he or she is focused on," said Huang Ying, a senior officer of the State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs. "That will help us find the best positions for them."

Photographic art through the eyes of villagers

Experimental documentation

A photography exhibition, far from being a collection of static pictures, has the ability to burst with narrative.

With this in mind, the exhibition *Hidden Land: Shangjuanzu Villagers and Artists' Image Experiment* opened on April 7 in Today Art Museum. More than 2,600 photographic works from more than 80 critics, theorists, photographers, artists, film directors, poets and writers are on display. They were all made between last December and this March.

There are meticulous compositions and large works. Most impressively, artists worked with 29 villagers to create a series of visual documentations and expressions.

The showcase is the innovative result of an experimental visual art program. At the symposium of the Second National Peasants' Photograph Exhibition organized by China Photographers Association, artists and scholars passionately discussed "finding the real perspective of a peasant."

They believed that only by delving into authentic rural areas could they find something compelling. The resulting work was expected to simultaneously generate shock, reflect reality and stimulate thinking about the purity of land.

Immersing themselves in the countryside, photographers and artists spent three months chronicling the lives of the young and elderly residents in Shangjuanzu, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region.

Because of eco-degradation, the people of Shangjuanzu are expected to completely clear out from the mountains into the flatlands over the course of this year.

A voice for the voiceless

Photographs bear witness to events often lost in all but a few memories. The works shown in the exhibition include the very emotional DNA of a village that is about to become a memory.

The oldest participant among the 29 villagers was 64 years old, while the youngest was a child of 4. Some of these villagers were exposed to contemporary art for the first time, and many had never used a camera before.

The country dwellers, with the help of artists, tried to develop their own signature styles.

During a press event, Ma Minghai, one of the villagers who took part, offered a guided tour of the exhibition, telling the story behind the creative process. He spoke like an expert, telling people about the styles he learned from various photographers.

"In Shangjuanzu, commuting, using water and going to school is time and energy consuming," he said. "It takes 15 kilometers for my child to get to school. When we move to the new

By Chen Nan

The focus of a new show with in Beijing is simplicity, naturalness and originality. With a keen pulse on the fringe culture, it shows how rural and urban factors interact.

Villagers take up cameras and try to capture scenes of a disappearing village life. This exhibition marks the first time many of these pictures have been shown in a gallery.



Photos provided by Today Art Museum

home, life will be much more convenient, but leaving our home is a bitter experience for us."

His photos not only express his attachment, but tries to connect people with nature, showing vulnerability in the face of ecological decay.

Zang Ce, an artist involved in the show, said, "The last month of time and place was recorded."

He said the works are an intensive record of Ningxia, but the pictures are done under the subjective eye of an artist.

"At first, maybe it was a daunting task for the villagers," Zang said. "But when they embarked, they naturally understood how to express their love and organize their fragmented ideas. Photographers turned into subjects, and then we got a fresh angle on culture and environment."

When observers and the observed swapped roles, they found the inspiration to think outside the box.

As the artists grew more familiar with the villagers, they often found their own visions being molded.

"These issues resonate with the intellectual world and urban dwellers," said Da Men, another photographer.

No visual theme

Since no theme was given, the works span countless settings, ranging from interiors to natural landscapes.

Curator Chen Xiaobo said work changes along with the seasons, creating a flow of thoughtful imagery and a document of our time. "We hope to celebrate the conscience of the independent-minded and free," he said.

Some pictures are iconic, while others are barely discernable. For instance, in Xie Hailong's work, he focuses on the villagers' activities indoors, displaying an alternative way of observing a person's daily routine.

"We were trying to revive the people and land," Chen said. "I'm trying to be a friend and a press agent."

"In this exhibition we are acknowledging that there is no universal truth in a photograph, and celebrating the fact that each of us has different windows into a picture."

Popular bloggers start small business online

By Annie Wei

Many industries abroad are bolstered by bloggers and other professionals who keep popular websites, attracting thousands of followers and providing free advertising for products.

In China, more businesses have begun to understand this idea. Bloggers have capitalized on it too, offering their own brands of kitchenware, signature foods or recipes.

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted a few with good reviews and a sense of price versus quality.



CFP Photo

Sumin kitchenware

Since 2010, a young woman nicknamed Xiaobai has posted one vegetarian recipe every day to her website. Her Sina Weibo has 120,000 followers.

Xiaobai gave up meat at the end of 2008, when she converted to Buddhism. Not long ago, she teamed up with Lan Tian, who has a Master's degree in ceramics from the China Academy of Art, and launched a brand called Sumin, selling handmade kitchenware.

So far, its Taobao store carries six to eight kinds of products in small quantities, like bowls (starting from 78 yuan) and chopsticks holders (15 yuan).

Website: lifeofsu.taobao.com



CFP Photo

Noodle from Shanghai

Guan Jia is a popular foodie in the gourmet and design circles of both Beijing and Shanghai.

His design company is going well, giving him time to relax, travel and cook.

He's picky with food, especially noodles, which he said he used to spend up to an hour preparing it.

After many of his followers asked him to sell his noodles, Guan opened a Taobao store. He doesn't want to make a living out of it, but he'll ship out to those who order in advance.

Website: guanjiarizi.taobao.com



CFP Photos

Vintage home decor



Both Shanghai and Beijing are full of vintage stores. But in terms of numbers, quality and value, many shoppers prefer Shanghai, which has greater variety.

A popular vintage store in Shanghai, Aroom, now has an online store. You can find a pair of green wood salt and better bottles for 185 yuan, an arty minimalist round kettle for 180 yuan, or wine glass made in Italy in the 1950s and 1960s for 560 yuan. All items are at least two decades old.

Website: aroomvintage.taobao.com

Food from Central America

By Annie Wei

Compared to food from other continents or regions, there are relatively few places that specialize in Central American cuisine. But those that exist manage to attract an abundance of customers due to delicious food with spicy kicks and an upbeat ambiance.

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted two new restaurants offering Caribbean flavors and authentic Mexican food.

Good deals from a hutong Caribbean eatery

The scene in hutong areas like Guozijian or Wudaoying is about to pick up. One small eatery you should not miss is Jamaica Me Crazy, a 15-square-meter Caribbean take-out place at Cheniandian Hutong.

It's easy to find: it's just south of Andingmen Subway Station and opposite the west end of Guozijian Hutong.

As of present, it's the only place where you can find authentic Jamaican food in Beijing. The founder, 33-year-old Rose Lin Zamo, was born in Africa, grew up in Europe and came to Beijing to study Chinese.

As the place is small, the restaurant only offers a small selection of dishes. The most recommended include: classic Jerk chicken (48 yuan), Spaghetti Afrique (48 yuan), stewed rice (48 yuan) and curry mutton (48 yuan).

The secret lies in a homemade sauce prepared by Zamo, said Zhang Yipeng, a partner at the restaurant who has lived in South Africa for 15 years.

Take the classic Jerk chicken: it's marinated and sauced, then grilled. The rice is cooked with green beans,



Classic Jerk chicken, 48 yuan



Rooibos tea and cheesecake

mixed with herbs and onions.

Another dish we highly recommend is the rooibos tea. Unlike the rooibos teabags available at high-end supermarkets, Jamaica My Crazy's has a pure, strong aroma, and tastes silky. Zhang said although rooibos is known for being a healthy tea without caffeine, it has many grades depending on how much impurity it contains.

In the afternoon, it's nice to sip tea inside-whileenjoying a lime and coconut cheesecake.

One customer said it was the best cheesecake she's tried in town: not overly sweet, but containing layers of flavor.

The restaurant's other beverages come at very good prices as well: espresso for 10 yuan, and cappuccino and fresh squeezed juice for 20 yuan.

Catering service is also available starting at 150 yuan person.

Jamaica Me Crazy

Where: A few meters away from the entry of Cheniandian Hutong, Andingmen Nei Dajie, Dongcheng District

Open: 11 am – 9:30 pm, Tuesday to Friday

Tel: 6592 1254



Spaghetti Afrique, 48 yuan

Photos by An Jianguo



Jameica Me Crazy's coffee and tea menu

Tequilas and delicious Mexican food



Mexican food starting at 45 yuan for half-order

Among the Shanghai restaurants invading Sanlitun, Cantina Agave was highly anticipated, as it's a taqueria and tequileria that was popular among Shanghai's dining and drinking crowd.

Since its opening on March 30, which drew more than 800 guests, the restaurant has been packed almost every night.

The most popular drink is the lime margarita, said owner Raffie Ibrahimian, who also recommended mango and strawberry margaritas.

The must-try food menu includes nachos (starting from 45 yuan for half-order), enchiladas (78 yuan) and burritos (starting from 65 yuan).

The restaurant has a wide assortment of food and drinks, offering room for exploration. It's a nice and happy place to hang out with friends and colleagues after work.

Cantina Agave

Where: S4-32, 19 Sanlitun Village, Chaoyang District

Open: 11 am – 2 am next morning

Tel: 6416 5212



Cantina Agave carries lots of tequila



Margarita starting at 55 yuan CFP Photos